

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An a[[A]]pparatus for hardening a coating of an object, ~~more particularly a vehicle body (12), said coating including~~consisting of a material that hardens under electromagnetic radiation, the apparatus including ~~more particularly a~~

~~UV paint or a thermally hardening paint, having~~

- a) at least one radiator (~~58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b~~) producing electromagnetic radiation; and,
- b) a conveying system (~~14, 16, 46~~) that moves the object ~~[(12)]~~ to the proximity of the radiator (~~58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b~~) and moves it away from said radiator again;

wherein~~characterised in that~~

the conveying system comprising: (~~14, 16~~) comprises a lifting truck (~~46; 46'~~) with a running gear ~~[(50)]~~, said lifting truck having a lifting platform ~~[(54)]~~ for receiving the object ~~[(12)]~~, the height of which lifting platform relative to the running gear ~~[(50)]~~ can be adjusted by means of a motor, and in that the at least one radiator (~~58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b~~) is arranged in such a manner that the lifting truck (~~46; 46'~~) and the object ~~[(12)]~~ located thereon can be guided through under the at least one UV radiator (~~58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b~~).

2. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the lifting platform ~~[(54)]~~ is tiltable relative to the running gear ~~[(50)]~~ by means of a motor.

3. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 2, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the lifting platform [(54)] comprises two planes (93, 95) which are separated from one another by at least one length-variable ram[(92)].
4. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it has~~ a container [(38)] with an opening [(15)], through which the object [(12)] can be guided into the container [(38)] by height adjustment of the lifting platform [(54)], and in that the interior space of the container [(38)] can be subjected to electromagnetic radiation by at least one radiator (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b).
5. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 4, ~~wherein~~characterised in that at least one radiator is fitted in a wall, a ceiling or a floor of the container.
6. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 5, ~~wherein~~characterised in that at least one radiator is fitted in the opposite side walls running parallel to the translatory movement of the objects and in at least one of the two end walls running perpendicular to the translatory movement of the objects or in a ceiling or a floor of the container.
7. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 5, ~~wherein~~characterised in that a multiplicity of radiators are arranged on all walls and in a ceiling or a floor of the container.
8. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~wherein~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a plurality of radiators (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b) are arranged on a bridge-like portal frame [(44)] which has two substantially vertical legs and a substantially horizontal base.
9. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 8, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the arrangement of the radiators (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b) on the substantially vertical legs of the portal frame [(44)] is adapted to the course of the lateral surfaces of the object [(12)].
10. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~wherein~~or 8, characterised in that the arrangement of the radiators (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b) on the substantially horizontal base is adapted to the course of the upward-facing surface of the object [(12)].

11. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of Claim~~[[s]] 4, wherein~~to 10,~~
~~characterised in that~~ a protective gas can be supplied to the interior space of the container
[[{(38)}]].
12. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the
protective gas is heavier than air,~~in particular is carbon dioxide.~~
13. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the
protective gas is lighter than air,~~in particular is helium.~~
14. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein~~or 13, characterised in~~
~~that~~ there is an inlet ~~(68a, 68b)~~ for the protective gas in the immediate vicinity of the at least one
radiator.
15. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims, characterised in that~~ at least one radiator ~~(58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b)~~ is assigned a movable
reflector [[{(66)}]] on the side facing away from the object [[{(12)}]].
16. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of Claim~~[[s]] 4, wherein~~to 15,~~
~~characterised in that~~ the container [[{(38)}]] is at least partly lined with a reflective layer.
17. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the
layer is uneven.
18. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of Claim~~[[s]] 16, wherein~~and 17,~~
~~characterised in that~~ the layer consists of an aluminium foil.
19. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising~~one of the~~
~~preceding claims, characterised in that it has~~ a booth housing [[{(28)}]] which prevents
uncontrolled escape of gases and electromagnetic radiation.
20. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein~~characterised in that~~ a
lock ~~(34, 36)~~ for the object [[{(12)}]] is respectively provided at the inlet and at the outlet of the
booth housing [[{(28)}]].

21. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 20, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ an inlet for protective gas is arranged within the inlet-side lock ~~[(34)]~~ in such a way that a hollow space present in the object ~~[(12)]~~ is flushed with a protective gas.
22. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 20, ~~wherein or 21, characterised in that~~ a device ~~[(42)]~~ for removing oxygen from the atmosphere situated within the booth housing ~~[(28)]~~ is provided.
23. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 22, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the device ~~[(42)]~~ for removing oxygen has a catalyst for catalytically binding the oxygen.
24. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 22, ~~wherein or 23, characterised in that~~ the device ~~[(42)]~~ for removing oxygen has a filter for absorbing oxygen.
25. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of Claim[s]~~ 22, ~~wherein to 24, characterised in that~~ the device ~~[(42)]~~ for removing oxygen has a filter for adsorbing oxygen.
26. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it has~~ a preheating zone ~~[(18)]~~ for removing the solvent from the material of the coating.
27. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of Claim[s]~~ 1 further comprising to ~~25, characterised in that it has~~ a preheating zone ~~[(18)]~~ for partial gelling of pulverulent material.
28. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it has~~ a post-heating zone ~~[(22)]~~ for completing the hardening.
29. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the apparatus comprises~~ a control system ~~[(90)]~~ which controls the height of the lifting platform ~~[(54)]~~ in dependence on the upward-facing outer contour of the object ~~[(12)]~~.

30. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 29, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the height of the lifting platform [(54)] can be changed by the control system [(90)] in such a way that, during a conveying movement of the object [(12)] past the at least one radiator (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b), the amount of electromagnetic radiation striking the material per unit area, and the intensity thereof, in each case does not fall below predeterminable threshold values required for hardening.

31. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 30, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the height of the lifting platform [(54)] can be changed by the control system [(90)] in such a way that, during a conveying movement of the object [(12)] past the at least one radiator (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b), the distance in the vertical direction [(49)] between the object [(12)] and the at least one radiator (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b) remains at least approximately constant.

32. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 30, ~~wherein or 31,~~characterised in that the control system [(90)] comprises a memory [(91)] for storing three-dimensional shape data of the object.

33. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 29, ~~wherein to 32,~~characterised in that the apparatus comprises a measuring station [(80)] which is arranged upstream of the at least one radiator (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b) in the conveying direction [(48)] and by which three-dimensional shape data of the object [(12)] can be acquired.

34. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 33, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the measuring station comprises at least one light barrier.

35. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 33, ~~wherein or 34,~~characterised in that the measuring station comprises a video camera and a device for digital image recognition.

36. (currently amended): Apparatus according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 33, ~~wherein to 35,~~characterised in that the measuring station [(80)] comprises at least one optical scanner [(82)], by which the object [(12)] can be scanned at least in one direction.

37. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 36, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the optical scanner [(82)] comprises an infrared light source.

38. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the conveying system (14, 16, 46) comprises specifically a lifting truck [(46)] and a travel[H]ing path [(56)] for the lifting truck [(46)], along which path the at least one radiator (58, 60a, 60b, 62a, 62b) is arranged, and in that a receiving station for receiving the object [(12)] on the lifting platform [(54)] and a delivery station for delivering the object [(12)] spatially coincide.

39. (currently amended): Apparatus according to one of Claim[s] 1, wherein~~to 37, characterised in that~~ the conveying system (14, 16, 46) comprises at least two lifting trucks (461, 462) and in that, between a receiving station for receiving the object [(12)] on the lifting platform [(54)] and a delivery station for delivering the object [(12)], two travel[H]ing paths (561, 562) for the lifting trucks (461, 462) extend in such a way that the lifting trucks (461, 462) can circulate in a closed circuit between the receiving station and the delivery station.

40. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the electromagnetic radiation is UV light.

41. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the electromagnetic radiation is IR radiation.